

**INCOMING
FRESHMAN SPECIAL
SERVICES
PARENT/STUDENT
WELCOME MEETING**
Welcome West Morris Mendham
Class of 2025!



Introductions

- Michael Reinknecht, Director of Special Education mreinknecht@wmrbsd.org
908-879-6404 x 1476 (Mrs. Pat Ercolano, Secretary)

Building Level Administration

- Mr. Stephen Ryan, Principal, MHS sryan@wmrbsd.org
- Mr. Joseph Geddes, Assistant Principal jgeddes@wmrbsd.org
- Mrs Anne Meagher, Assistant Principal ameagher@wmrbsd.org
- Mrs. Melissa Heike, Assistant Principal mheike@wmrbsd.org

- Mr. John McGoldrick, Director of School Counseling Services jmcgoldrick@wmrbsd.org

Support Systems for your child at West Morris Mendham

- Every student with an IEP is assigned a *case manager* from the Child Study Team (CST). Your Case Manager is always your first point of contact for any questions or concerns related to your child's educational program, placement, modifications, accommodations, etc. and will be the professional who will continue your child's case management throughout their time at West Morris Regional.
- The *teaching staff* at WMM is one of the most dedicated, caring group of professionals. You are strongly encouraged to reach out to them with course-specific questions and concerns. Our teachers are here for your child(ren).
- All students at WMM will be assigned a *guidance counselor* who will be yet another caring professional who will get to know your child quickly. Students are assigned to guidance counselors alphabetically. The counselor assignments have already been communicated to your middle schools. In February, when the high school CST comes down to each middle school to participate in your child's freshman IEP development, your child's assigned guidance counselor will also attend and participate. Your child typically will have the same guidance counselor and case manager for the duration of their tenure here at WMM.

Child Study Team Members

- Mrs. Donna Tamburello, Secretary to CST 973-543-2501 ext. 4540
dtamburello@wmrhsd.org

Child Study Team Case Managers

- Mrs. Kathleen Bradshaw, LDT-C kbradshaw@wmrhsd.org 973-543-2501 ext. 4525
- Mrs. Tracy Costa, School Social Worker tcosta@wmrhsd.org 973-543-2501 ext. 4515
- Mr. Fred Fell, School Psychologist ffell@wmrhsd.org 973-543-2501 ext. 4510
- Mrs. Alison Michno, School Social Worker amichno@wmrhsd.org 973-543-2501 ext. 4530

WMM Child Study Team members, as well as your child's guidance counselor, will be attending your upcoming 9th grade IEP planning meetings in February.

Guidance Counselors

- Kara Angelastro kangelastro@wmrbsd.org ext. 4410
- Alison Cassera acassera@wmrbsd.org ext. 4455
- Daniel Coco dcoco@wmrbsd.org ext. 4465
- Melissa Hart mhart@wmrbsd.org ext. 4435
- Hillary Klimowicz hklimowicz@wmrbsd.org ext. 4430
- Richard Kumpf rkumpf@wmrbsd.org ext. 4415

Administrative Assistants

Melissa Lees mlees@wmrbsd.org ext. 4420

Nancy Sickoria nsickoria@wmrbsd.org ext. 4425

Additional Resource Personnel

- Ms. Tamara D'Alessio, School Assistance Counselor (SAC), Anti-Bullying Specialist (ABS) tdalessio@wmrhsd.org 973-543-2501 ext. 4520
- School Resource Officer: Officer Joseph Kennedy, MBPD; Michael Boll, MBPD

Mendham Student Health Office

- Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 2:45 PM
 - 973-543-2501 Fax #: 973-543-0283
- Nurses**
- Danielle Pulver, RN, CSN dpulver@wmrhsd.org ext. 4490
 - Cheryl Wilson, RN, CSN cwilson@wmrhsd.org ext. 4495

Safe, Happy, Learning, and Involved

The West Morris Regional High School District Board of Education, the Department of Special Education, and the administration and staff of both high schools want your child(ren) to enjoy their time at WMM.

To that end, we strive to ensure that ALL students are safe, happy, engaged in their school community during and after school, and are demonstrating exceptional progress in their educational programs, regardless of setting.

- Students with disabilities enrolled in the life skills, Being Successful Program (BSP), and our 18-21 year old students enrolled in the ASPIRE program are eligible to attend school, in person, full-time during the COVID pandemic.
- This full-time enrollment supports the Board of Education's commitment to providing exceptional educational and related services to students with disabilities.

Remember...

- Almost anything is possible through the IEP team process, if appropriate.
- Participaton in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and other activities is highly encouraged. IEP-mandated aide support is available for appropriate students.
- Class trips and overnight trips are other worthwhile opportunities for your child to experience and grow. Consider participation whenever possible.
- Accommodations for trips for students qualified under IDEA and Section 504.
- WE WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN HIS/HER HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. Plan with your child's case manage to help us effectuate this goal.

Remember....

- *Almost everything is possible through the IEP team process...*
- Participation in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, Unified Sports, and other activities is **highly encouraged**. Aide support is available for students with aide services in student IEPs for all afterschool, evening, and weekend events. Our goal is to encourage our young adults to develop the greatest degree of independence possible and to participate fully in the high school experience.
- Class trips and overnight trips are other worthwhile opportunities for your child to experience and grow. Consider their participation whenever possible.
- Accommodations for students under IDEA and Section 504 available for all trips and extracurricular activities.

IEP Programming

- **Because almost anything is possible through the IEP process:**
- All IEP programming begins with current IEP evaluation data. It's important that your child has current evaluations in order to determine appropriate programming and support because a child evaluated in elementary school is very different developmentally than a child entering high school. Your CST will be expected to provide updated evaluation data prior to students entering high school.
- West Morris Director articulation with sending district CSTs and Directors occur annually to ensure teams, students, and parents have updated information regarding the high school program and experience.
- West Morris re-evaluates all students prior to graduation to ensure they have updated evaluation information for post-secondary life- college, work, supportive employment, etc.

What other options are available to my child(ren) with disabilities besides an IEP?

- Many otherwise qualified individuals with a disability can receive accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974. Accommodations are not intended to remediate, provide advantage, or to maximize student potential. Section 504 is a Civil Rights statute which states that organizations that accept Federal funding ensure that individuals with qualifying disabilities have barriers removed which prevent equal access to the general education curriculum, physical facilities, and extracurricular activities that individuals without disabilities do not experience. 504 ensures a “level playing field.” *Access* to school functions, including curriculum are provided; modification to curriculum is not provided under Section 504.
- ADHD/Auditory Processing
- Physical disabilities
- Chronic health conditions (diabetes, seizures, cancer)
- ...and many more

What options are available to my child(ren) with disabilities?

- For students who are Eligible for Special Education and Related Services, N.J.A.C.6A:14 provides a wide range of service and placement options, and districts must consider placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (*for that student*). The LRE is the educational placement in which a classified student can make *meaningful progress toward the general education curriculum* through the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education.
- School districts MUST always consider the general education classroom with appropriate supports and services first. Once all supports and services are exhausted, IEP teams may consider other placement options.
- In-Class Resource (Collaborative); Resource Center Replacement; Self-Contained Classroom; Shared-Time Placement (combination of BSP and general education classes); Abbreviated Day with Home Instruction; Out of District Placements (full or part time); Shared-Time programs at Technical Schools; Alternative Educational Placements; Home or Hospital Instruction; Structured Learning Environment placements
- ASPIRE (Adult Student Program in Reaching Empowerment): a new 18-21 year-old district transition program located at WMC. SLE Coordinator: Mrs. Michelle Mongey mmongey@wmrhsd.org

Upcoming Events

- Parents and guardians will be receiving a letter shortly from the WMRHSD instructing them that they **MUST** register their child(ren) in the district/school.
- WMM Peer Leaders will virtually visit each middle school to meet with the 8th graders regarding life in high school and all of the wonderful opportunities that exist. A written notice will be sent to each family from the guidance department of your middle schools.
- By the end of January, WMM will have all course placement recommendations from your child(ren)'s teachers for the courses projected to be taken. Your child(ren)'s 8^h grade teachers have had the opportunity to observe classes here at WMM already and to articulate with high school staff about course expectations. 8th grade teacher recommendations historically have been accurate in predicting appropriate levels for placement based upon student performance in the beginning of 9th grade.

Safe, Happy, Learning, and Involved

Before closing, I want to reassure you that our goal is for your child(ren) to love their time in high school. The faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to ensuring that your kids are safe, happy, learning, and involved.

This brief, uplifting video, accurately captures the spirit of what our staff tries to do, for every child, every day.

TEDx Talk by Rita Pierson

[Every Kid Needs a Champion](#)

Questions?

- Please feel free to ask any questions that you have of the CST attending your young adult's IEP meeting this spring.
- Please feel free to email me atreinknecht@wmrhsd.org or reach out by phone at 908-879-6404 ext. 1476 with questions and/or concerns.
- We look forward to welcoming your young adult into the West Morris Regional High School District!